PLANETARY PROBES AND THE PLANETARY DECADAL SURVEY

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On March 7, 2011, the National Research Council released Vision and Voyages for Planetary Science in the Decade 2013-2022. This report represents broad community input via white paper submissions, presentations to panels and the Steering Group, and participation in mission concept studies. Careful independent assessment of mission concepts was used to validate cost, technical feasibility, and risk, prior to ranking each mission by the discipline panels. The final priorities of large and medium class missions, as well as technology development, research and analysis, and small missions were made across disciplines based on programmatic balance, costs and science value. The recommended missions include opportunities for atmospheric probes to Venus, Saturn and Uranus, as well as the study of future probe technology. This presentation will give a brief overview of the survey process and recommendations, with specific emphasis on planetary probe opportunities.